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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

You may be interested in the attached clippings describing Senator Dirksen's current contribution to the Illinois campaign.



Arthur Schlesinger, jr.

DIRKSEN LAYS MESS IN CUBA TO PRESIDENT

Schlesinger
Begins Late Start on
Campaign

BY ROBERT HOWARD
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 7—Sen. Dirksen (R., Ill.) in a belated opening of his Republican re-election campaign said today that the Kennedy administration has made "a sorry record, indeed," on Cuba and other foreign policy issues.

"There is a mess in Cuba, a mess of our own making that began with the New Frontier," the minority leader said.

He blamed the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion on President Kennedy, saying its success was predicated on three air strikes. "The first one was a success, but the next two were called off by the highest authority in the United States," Dirksen said. "There's the dismal record."

Dirksen also charged that Russian technicians have completed eight missile bases in Cuba and have 16 more under construction.

He predicted a "thumping Republican victory" Nov. 6 and indicated that his own campaign will emphasize criticism of the situation that has resulted in a communist buildup in Cuba. Dirksen appeared at three receptions here and will campaign in west central Illinois Monday and Tuesday before returning to Washington. He expects final adjournment of Congress Thursday, after which full time will be devoted to "telescoping two months of campaigning into one."

He Ignores Yates

"I have tried to serve you well," the senator said. He made brief mention of his experience and contacts at Washington, but ignored his Democratic opponent, Rep. Sidney R. Yates of Chicago. Dirksen, who recently spent several days in a hospital with what was described as an abdominal ailment, appeared to be in good health.

"When they work you 18 hours a day in Washington and a little bug bites you, sometimes they cart you off to the hospital for a day or so with temporary in-

Asks About Prestige

"We have achieved nothing at Geneva except continued retreat from one position to another on the issue of a nuclear test ban," he said. There was a brief reference to southeastern Asia as Dirksen said that administration efforts to deal with Communists were a sorry effort.

He asked where is the American prestige about which President Kennedy made 1960 campaign speeches.

Dirksen said that he and Charles Halleck, (R., Ind.), House minority leader, insisted on getting a hearing for Republican principles when the Kennedy administration proposals were presented to Congress.

After that, Dirksen said, he went along with the majority when it was important that division not be presented to the world. Now, he explained, he was sorry to report to the voters that the administration has failed.

The first Springfield speech was at reception at the Illinois County club, a traditional cam-

Cuba Building More Rocket Bases: Dirksen

Sun-Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.), in an attack on the Kennedy administration Sunday, declared that Soviet technicians have completed eight missile-launching bases in Cuba and are at work on 16 more.

Launching his campaign for re-election after a short illness, Dirksen spoke at Republican rallies in the Illinois Country Club, the Hotel Leland and the state fairgrounds here. His opponent for the U.S. Senate seat in the Nov. 6 election, Rep. Sidney R. Yates (D-Ill.), has already visited Downstate on a speechmaking tour.

Dirksen asserted that the Cuban problem "is a mess of our own making at the hands of the New Frontier." He said the success of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion depended on three air strikes against the landing area but said President Kennedy canceled the aerial support.

Turning to the issue of Berlin, Dirksen said, "There was no wall of shame in Berlin when the Republicans were in the White House."

He called the Berlin wall a "monument of failure" of U.S. policy. He added that the country has also lost ground in Laos and South Viet Nam under the present administration.

Dirksen recalled Mr. Ken-

neddy's claim during the 1960 presidential campaign that prestige had slipped under Eisenhower administration. "Where is that prestige a 18 months?" he asked.

"The New Frontier got country moving again, but it got it moving in the wrong direction," he charged.

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Campaign

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[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

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"When they work you 18 hours a day in Washington and a little bug bites you, sometimes they cart you off to the hospital for a day or so with temporary indigestion," he said.

On the general situation that has prolonged the congressional session, Dirksen said only that there is "such a state of confusion on the New Frontier that we can't even adjourn the Senate."

Discussions of foreign policy were not confined to Cuba. The Berlin wall was described as a "monument to failure."

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